Nova Scotia

ANNUAL REPORT

for the fiscal year
ending March 31, 1988

Advisory Council on Heritage Property

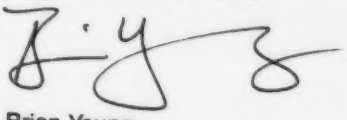
89-02815/

To His Honour
The Honourable Alan R. Abraham, C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Nova Scotia

Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith, the seventh annual report of the Advisory Council on Heritage Property, for the fiscal year concluding March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Young
Minister of Tourism
and Culture

The Honourable Brian Young
Minister in Charge of Administration
of the Heritage Property Act
Province of Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Sir:

I have the privilege on behalf of the Advisory Council on Heritage Property to present our report on the work of the Council for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Kinsman
Chairman

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HERITAGE PROPERTY

The Advisory Council on Heritage Property was first established in 1980 under the authority of the Heritage Property Act. This is the seventh year that the Council has advised the Minister on the registration of heritage properties and other related issues.

The purpose of the Heritage Property Act is to provide for the identification, designation, preservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, streetscapes and areas of historic, architectural or cultural value, and to encourage their continued use.

The Department of Tourism and Culture is responsible for the administration of the Act under the direction of the Honourable Brian Young.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

During 1986–87 Mr. Louis Stephen, the vice chairman, resigned upon his appointment as the new Deputy Minister of the Department of Housing. He was replaced by Mr. Robert Geraghty upon his appointment as Deputy Minister of the newly created Department of Tourism and Culture. Mr. Gordon Kinsman retired both as chairman and as a member, having served five years. The Right Reverend Leonard Hatfield was appointed to the Council.

The Council greatly regrets the tragic death of Dr. J.R. Kerr of Annapolis Royal. He was a member since 1984 and participated in all the provincial tours of Council.

The following individuals also served on the Council during this period—Neil Boucher, Yvonne Dallien, Doris Flikke, Wayne MacLeod, Ronald Peck and Candace Stevenson.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGISTRATIONS

The Advisory Council is pleased to note that the following properties, which it recommended, were duly registered in 1987–88:

- Centenary United Church, Upper Granville, Annapolis County—April 16, 1987
- Sanford Barn, Medford, Kings County—July 9, 1987
- Old Port Medway Meeting House, Port Medway, Queens County—January 25, 1988
- The Esker, Sable River, Shelburne County—January 25, 1988
- Locke Homestead, Lockeport, Shelburne County—January 25, 1988
- William Stalker Homestead, Lockeport, Shelburne County—January 25, 1988
- Jacob Locke Homestead, Lockeport, Shelburne County—January 25, 1988
- Gurden Bill Homestead, Lockeport, Shelburne County—January 25, 1988
- John Locke Homestead, Lockeport, Shelburne County—January 25, 1988
- Rose Bank Cottage, Musquodoboit Harbour, Halifax County—March 11, 1988
- Covenanter Church, Grand Pre, Kings County—March 11, 1988
- Kirk Place, Antigonish, Antigonish County—March 11, 1988

The Advisory Council also recommended that the following be registered:

- Allen House, Black Point, Halifax County
- Ryer-Davis House, Shelburne, Shelburne County
- John Henry Harlow House, Milton, Queens County
- Dimock House, Pereaux, Kings County
- Congdon House, Prospect, Kings County (with the condition that artificial siding be removed)
- Kinsman-Salsman House, near Berwick, Kings County
- Gavelton Meeting House, Gavelton, Yarmouth County
- Manson House, North Lochaber, Antigonish County

The Council recommended that the following properties be deregistered for the reasons given:

- Pictou County Courthouse, Pictou County—because of the fire of 15 September 1987 that destroyed most of the building and necessitated its complete demolition.
- Cornish Pump House, New Glasgow, Pictou County—because of the need to remove it to make way for a new highway development and its future use as an exhibit at the Museum of Industry and Transportation.

PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTY PLAQUES AND SCROLLS

The Advisory Council takes pleasure in noting that heritage property plaques were placed on the following provincially registered properties and scrolls presented to their owners:

- Belliveau House, Church Point, Digby County
- Saint John's Anglican Church, Port Williams, Kings County
- DeWolf House, Wolfville, Kings County
- Randall House, Wolfville, Kings County
- Saint Edward's Anglican Church, Clementsport, Annapolis County
- Chignecto Marine Transport Railway, Tidnish, Cumberland County
- Saint Mary's Anglican Church, Auburn, Kings County
- Goodwin House, Hantsport, Kings County

THE PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES

The Advisory Council has approved a revised version of the procedures and criteria it will follow in recommending properties for provincial heritage registration. These are given at the end of this report.

THE PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Purpose

The purpose of provincial registration is to provide protection in law under the Heritage Property Act of 1980 to those buildings, streetscapes and areas that by reason of their architectural, historic or cultural value are considered to be of provincial significance.

Definitions

Advisory Council on Heritage Property: A council appointed by the Government to advise the Minister on the registration of provincial heritage properties and applications for substantial exterior alterations or demolitions.

Areas: These include such visibly physical features as cemeteries, historical gardens, or statues and monuments where they are of architectural, historical, cultural—as opposed to archaeological or ecological—value.

Minister: The Minister of the Crown charged with the administration of the Heritage Property Act.

Property: This is the general term used for any building, streetscape or area being considered for provincial registration. Once registered the property becomes part of the Provincial Registry of Heritage Property. A file of those properties registered is kept by the Heritage Section, Department of Tourism and Culture.

Provincial Significance: This pertains to any building, streetscape or area that stands out, or is recognized as being of more than local significance, by reason of its association with the province's history, the need to conserve its architectural heritage, or of past contributions to its cultural life.

Provincial Versus Municipal Registration

A property may be either, or both, provincially or municipally registered where the municipality has passed the necessary heritage by-law. The difference between the forms of registration is that authority for substantial alterations to the exterior appearance of a provincially registered

property or for its demolition requires an order-in-council (cabinet approval); whereas, for those municipally registered need only that of the local council. Also, where a municipal council refuses the request of an owner, he or she may wait one year from the date of refusal and proceed to do what was originally requested. In both cases the Act is only concerned with substantial exterior alterations. In summary, the Province registers those properties judged to be of provincial heritage significance, while municipalities register those of local importance.

Guiding Principles

1. The continued co-operation of owners is essential if the Act is to achieve its purpose.

2. The selection criteria are broadly interpreted. For example, the following are eligible for registration:
   a) present or former places of religious worship;
   b) reconstructed buildings that display a superior standard of research and execution;
   c) relocated buildings, provided that their change of location has not to an unacceptable degree altered their historical association, architectural value or cultural importance:
   d) buildings in a poor state of repair if there are reasonably firm assurances that they will soon be put into a sound condition, conforming to their heritage significance;
   e) statues and monuments if they possess a heritage value distinct from the person, place or event that they commemorate; and
   f) historical ruins that are not otherwise already protected by legislation or public ownership, and for which there are definite visible remains.

Procedures

Properties for registration come before the Advisory Council as the result of application by owners or interested individuals or groups.

The Heritage Section of the Department of Tourism and Culture does the necessary research on properties before applications are presented to the Advisory Council in the form of a written property case study summary.

The Advisory Council then decides to recommend or not to recommend registration to the Minister. If recommended, a Notice of Recom-

mendation is sent to the owner with a copy to the local registry of deeds. A Notice of Recommendation states the reasons for the proposed registration and the bounds or property lines of the space and structure to be registered.

From the date on the Notice of Recommendation, the property cannot be substantially altered on the exterior or demolished. Also, from this date, the owner or any other interested party has thirty (30) days within which to state their views to the Minister on registration of the property. After the thirty day period, the Minister may register the property at any time within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of the Notice of Recommendation—that is ninety (90) days from the end of the thirty (30) day period. The Minister does this by sending a Notice of Registration to the owner with a copy to the local registry of deeds for permanent attachment to the title of the property. Henceforth, the property cannot be substantially altered on the exterior or demolished without the authority of an order-in-council.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In deciding which properties to recommend for registration, the Advisory Council uses three primary sets of selection criteria—history and culture, architecture, context or environment and integrity. The degrees of importance that can be assessed for each of these are described below.

A. History and Culture

Age in itself is not a determining factor; rather the emphasis is on evaluating the degree of heritage significance of a property's association with persons, events or activities of importance in the history and culture of Nova Scotia at:

a) the provincial level,
b) the county level,
c) the community level, or
d) of no special merit

B. Architecture

The particular style as defined in *A Nova Scotian's Guide to Built Heritage: Architectural Style, 1604–1930* and considered to be:

a) a very rare example,
b) a rare example,
c) a common example, or
d) a very common example

The type of construction or building technology used that is:

a) a very rare or early example,
b) a rare or fairly early example,
c) a common example, or
d) a very common example

As an example of the work of an architect or builder that is:

a) very rare or of exceptional interest,
b) rare or of special interest,
c) common or of little interest, or
d) very common or much altered on the exterior

C. Context or Environment and Integrity

The degree that the property stands out as a landmark for visual or sentimental reasons that go beyond its particular architectural significance or historical association as:

a) a symbol of provincial importance,
b) a symbol of county or regional importance,
c) a symbol of community importance, or
d) of little symbolic value

The degree the property contributes to the historical and architectural continuity or character of its surroundings as:

a) essential to maintaining the dominant character,
b) important to maintaining the dominant character,
c) compatible with the dominant character, or
d) incompatible with the dominant character

The integrity of a property is determined by whether it is:

a) on its original site and with few or minor exterior alterations,
b) on its original site but with major exterior alterations,
c) on a relocated site and with minor exterior alterations, or
d) on a relocated site and with major exterior alterations

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PLACES OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP FOR PROVINCIAL REGISTRATION

Places of religious worship have had such an intimate and important historical association with Nova Scotian society that the Advisory Council uses additional criteria in the recommendation of these buildings for registration.

These additional criteria, which are listed below, should be read in relation to the following brief historical analysis of church building in the Province.

Historical Context

The construction of places of religious worship can be roughly divided into four periods, of which the first three are of primary concern in the selection process.

Early Settlement, 1749–1830: During this period (which itself can be subdivided into three sub-periods separated by the American Revolution and the French Revolutionary Wars) the earliest churches were built to serve the first settlers. A number of these churches have national importance, being the oldest churches of their denominations (Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, Congregationalist, Methodist and Presbyterian). Architecturally, the churches tended to be a synthesis of the American colonial meeting house style and British classicism. Out of this synthesis evolved the unique Nova Scotian Georgian church style best exemplified in the design of St. Mary's, Auburn. From this period more than thirty churches have survived, with most still on their original sites and many with few major alterations. All except one of these pre-1830 churches are in the western half of the province.

Consolidation, 1831–1870: Large scale immigration ceased by the 1830s except for eastern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Many of the churches from the time of the first settlements were torn down and replaced by larger, more "dignified and suitable" places of worship. Denominational loyalties hardened while becoming a significant factor in church life. The new churches built were heavily influenced by the Gothic Revival, often resulting in unsymmetrical forms in dramatic contrast to the striking symmetry of their Georgian predecessors. A major development was the emergence of regional styles found within the province. From this period three hundred churches remain spread fairly evenly throughout the province, though the rural areas of Cape Breton have the least number.

Monumental 1871–1914: This was a prosperous era especially in the early decades for those engaged in the shipping and shipbuilding industries. In the later decades industrialization took hold and became the dominant force in such towns as Amherst, New Glasgow and Sydney. With architecture becoming a recognized profession, many churches were now designed by architects. Instead of wood, stone and brick were used, accentuating the definite trend to large, monumental buildings in the style of High Victorian Gothic, Romanesque and Baroque. In some parts of the province regional styles became quite pronounced overriding even denominational preferences. Over five hundred places of worship are still standing from this, the era of the greatest construction of places of religious worship in the history of the Province.

Post 1914: This was a period of general economic depression until the 1950s with gradual urbanization, dramatically accelerating after the Second World War. New construction was mainly in the expanding suburbs reflecting a variation of traditional and modern design. About six hundred places of religious worship have been built since the First World War.

Additional Criteria

History and Culture

A place of religious worship of a denomination that is the oldest in the nation or in the province, and in exceptional circumstances within a community;

A place of religious worship that has a close association with the settlement or the history of a racial or ethnic group, or of a community; or

A place of religious worship that has played a notable role in the history of a denomintation.

Architecture

A place of religious worship that is a very early or rare example of a style or construction method; or

A place of religious worship that is considered by architectural historians a fine example of the work of an architect or builder.

Context or Environment and Integrity

The place of religious worship is on its original site, or if moved, it has continued to serve the same community.

There is in being a congregation prepared to maintain the building and surrounding grounds.